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PRESS RELEASE -- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sullivan County Commission Hires Consulting Firm to Assess Feasibility of Constructing a Materials Recovery Facility for Recyclable Materials for Sullivan County

Unity, NH - The Sullivan County Commission has hired Resource Recycling Systems (RRS), an environmental consulting firm located in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to prepare a feasibility study to help determine whether the Commission should construct a new materials recovery facility (MRF) that would process recyclable materials generated from community recycling programs. RRS has over 20 years experience in solid waste resource management for both the public and private sectors, including work with numerous town and city governments.

Sullivan County has an estimated recycling rate of 13% -- far below the State of New Hampshire's goal of 40%. In order to increase recycling rates, Sullivan County will need to make a concerted effort to establish new programs to both collect recyclable materials from residents and businesses, as well as sort and process these materials for market.

"Resource Recycling Systems brings just the type of expertise we need to further evaluate whether it makes sense to construct a new MRF for Sullivan County," said Ed Gil de Rubio, Executive Director of the Sullivan County Commission. "The County Commission wants to make sure that it has all the data and analysis it needs before it moves forward with this concept."

This feasibility study is part of a larger effort by the Sullivan County Commission and the Antioch New England Institute (ANEI), in collaboration with citizens involved in the Waste Action Collaborative (WAC), to explore the best approaches for realigning waste management

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priorities in the County. ANEI, in consultation with the WAC, has recently developed a *Recycling-Based Waste Management Action Plan for Sullivan County* that outlines a blueprint for increasing recycling and waste diversion.

"We have heard a lot about the philosophy of recycling," said Scott Pope, Mayor of the City of Claremont. "This study is about determining the feasibility of and developing a business plan for a facility that can sort and process recyclable materials. This study will address the reality and economics for constructing a new MRF in Sullivan County."

The MRF feasibility study will include an economic analysis of the relative pros and cons of building a new MRF versus aggregating and transporting recyclables to existing MRFs in Vermont and New Hampshire. The study will explore the feasibility of constructing a single-stream versus dual-stream MRF. For dual-stream facilities, recyclable materials are sorted into two basic categories of fiber (cardboard, mixed paper, etc.) and containers (glass, metal, plastic). Under single-stream collection, fibers and containers are collected in one recycling container, placed into a non-compartmentalized truck, and then sorted at a MRF. The feasibility study will include a detailed analysis of the proposed capital and operating requirements of the preferred MRF option, as well as an assessment of the potential economic risks associated with building the facility.

The \$17,000 feasibility study is being paid for with contributions from the Sullivan County Commission, Town of Newport, City of Claremont, and Antioch New England Institute – part of Antioch University New England based in Keene, NH. The study is expected to be completed by September 30, 2007.